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NOTE FOR: Dave Gries

FROM: 

SUBJECT: Possible SSCI Hearings on Nicaragua

John Despres outlined for me a tentative schedule of hearings on Nicaragua. Despres said he had suggested these hearings to Holliday, but that Senator Boren had not yet made a decision. Perhaps he is awaiting Senator Bradley's return to Washington.

Despres contemplates three hearings. The first would be a Committee briefing by Alan Fiers and Elliott Abrams on 14 January. About two weeks later Armacost and Clair George or  would give testimony. Then, in the middle of February, George Shultz and Bob Gates would testify. Despres explained that these multiple sets of hearings are necessary to gain an understanding of the program and of administration oversight mechanisms.

After listening to my arguments against having three hearings, Despres said he would tell Holliday that the first and second should be combined.

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